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ABSTRACT

This guide interweaves activities with major themes in science and the humanities. Drawing respectfully upon the deep, diverse, and living folkways of Native American cultures, these activities help provide students with a wider understanding of their world and a greater appreciation for cultural diversity. The unit integrates science, mathematics, art, language arts, and social science. Students use masks and myths as the subject areas in their study of cultures. Middens are introduced as a way to study archaeological findings and the process of discovery. The six sessions in the unit are entitled: (1) "Natural Collecting and Sorting"; (2) "Making Masks and Inferences"; (3) "Creating Myths"; (4) "Sharing Myths"; (5) "Uncovering the Past or What's Hidden in the Midden"; and (6) "Putting Together Clues from the Past." Resource pages accompany each session with a complete bibliography, resources listing, and literature connections. Assessment suggestions accompany the unit with a background essay for teachers before beginning the study. The debate regarding the excavation of tribal lands is also addressed in the text. (EH)

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